

# What Would It Take to Dramatically Increase **Mobility from Poverty?**

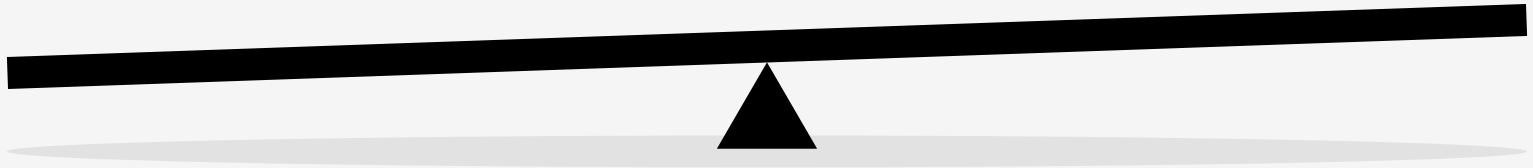
**2018 Grow Our Own Summit**

November 8, 2018

Nisha Patel | [nisha@robinhood.org](mailto:nisha@robinhood.org) | @heynisha

# American Dream

Work hard,  
get ahead

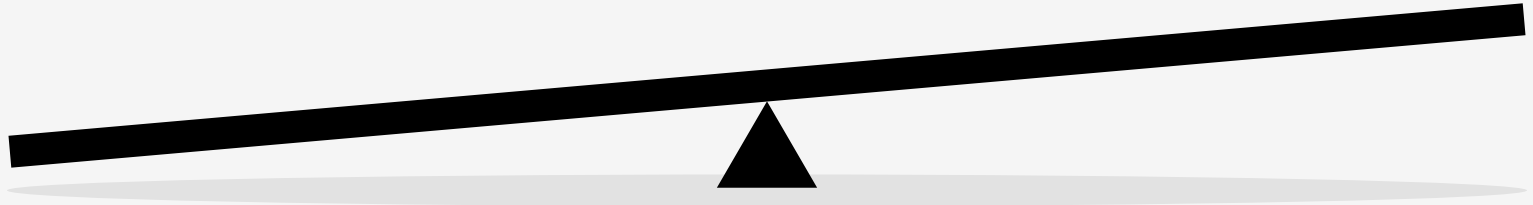


# American Dream

Work hard,  
get ahead



You do well,  
your children  
do better



American Dream

Today's Reality

Work hard,  
get ahead

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You do well,  
your children  
do better

Children less  
likely to do better



## American Dream

Work hard,  
get ahead

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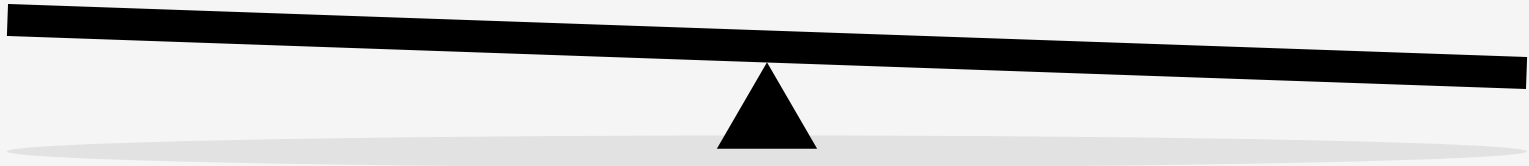
You do well,  
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## Today's Reality

Hard work  
isn't enough

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Children less  
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## American Dream

Work hard,  
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You do well,  
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## Today's Reality

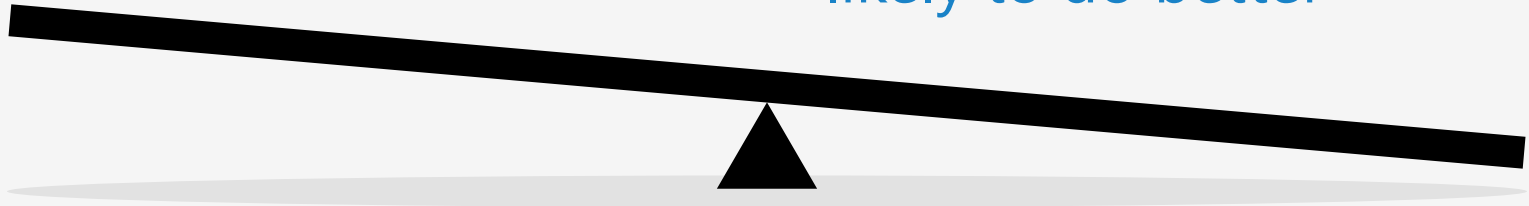
Place matters

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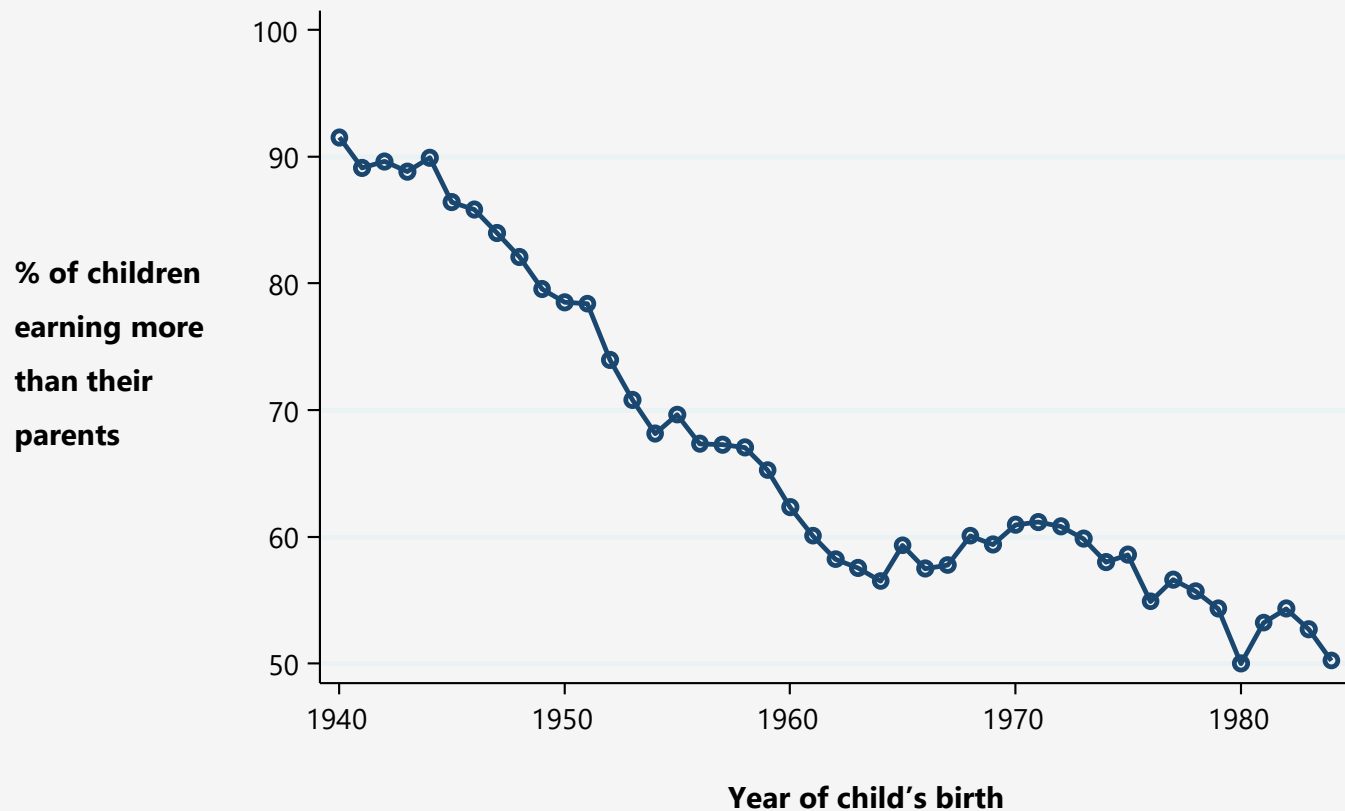
Hard work  
isn't enough

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Children less  
likely to do better



**Children less likely to do better  
than their parents**



Source: Chetty et al. "The Fading American Dream: Trends in Absolute Income Mobility Since 1940"



**Hard work isn't enough**

**Nowhere** in the US can a FT minimum wage worker afford a 2-BD apartment



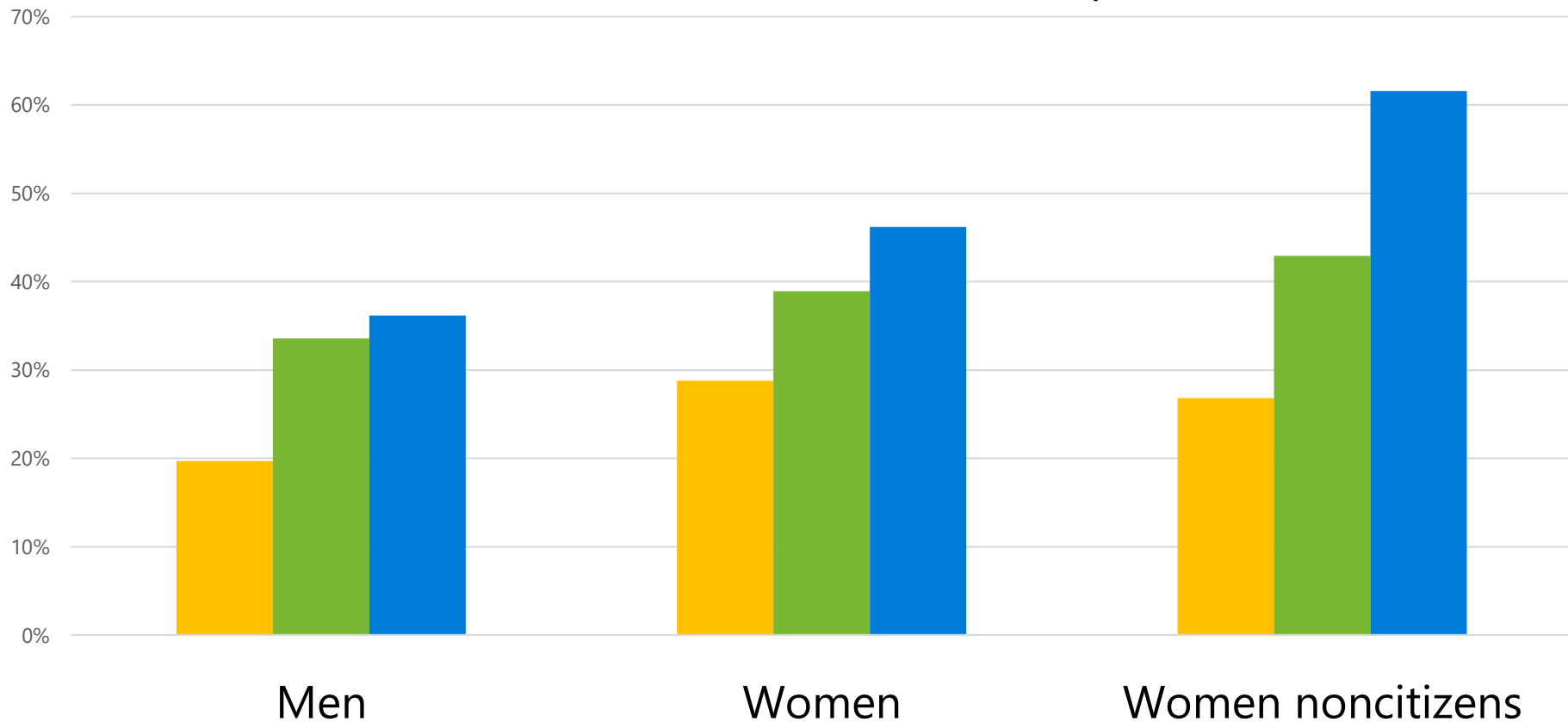
**Disparities by race, gender, &  
immigration status persist**

# Share of workers ages 18-64 who earn low wages

White

Black

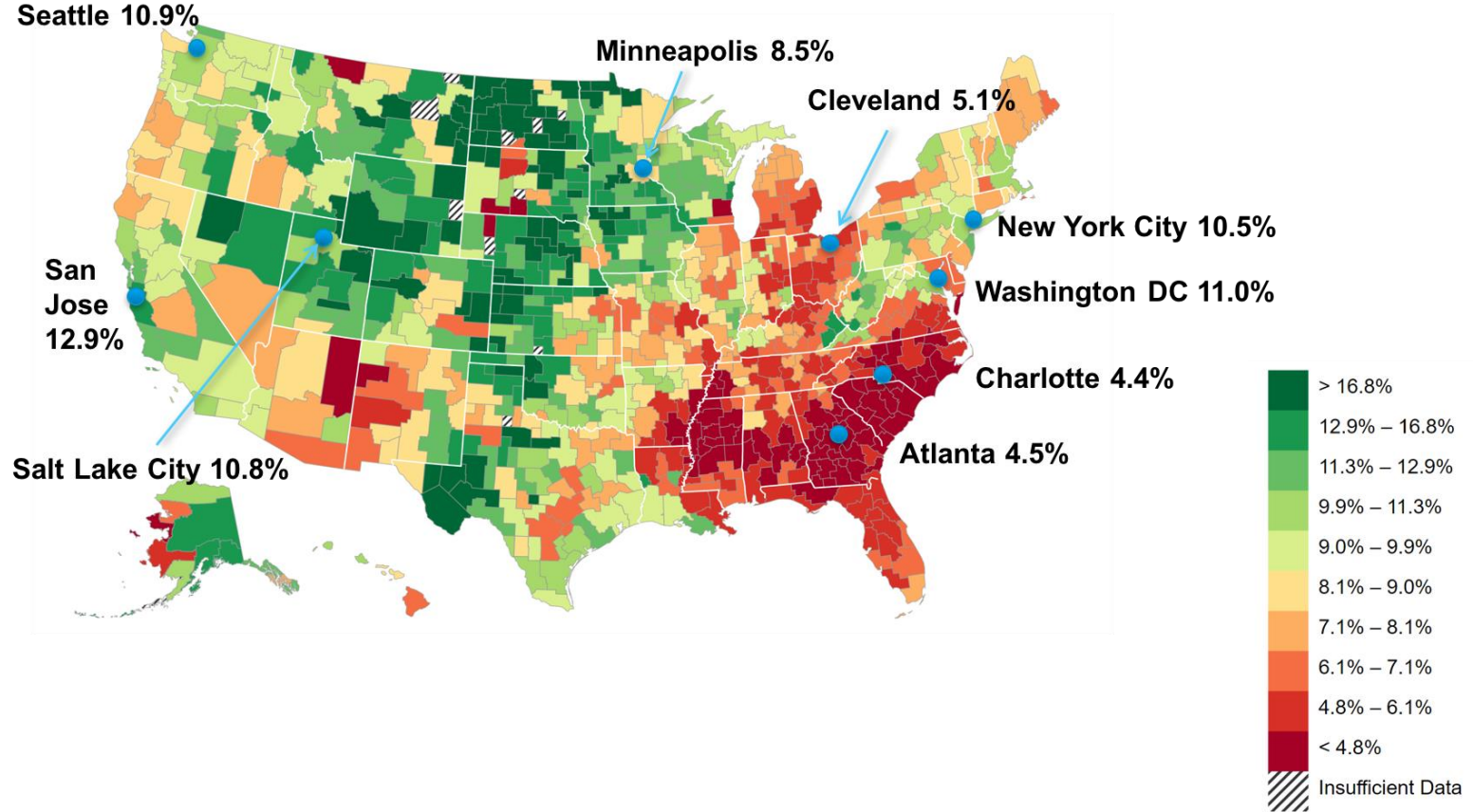
Hispanic



Source: US Partnership on Mobility from Poverty calculations, based on March 2016 CPS-ASEC data.

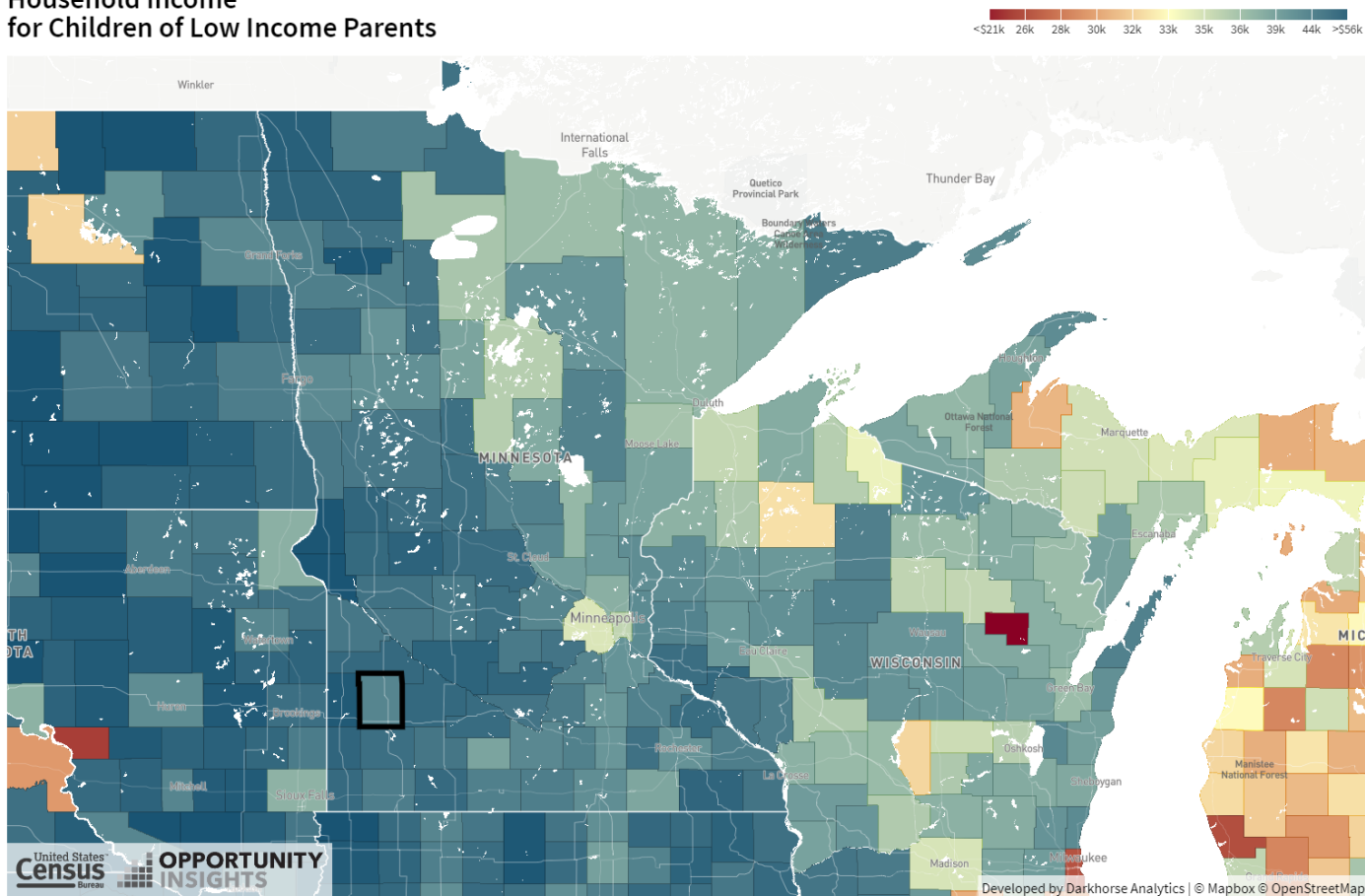
# **Place matters**

# Chances of moving from bottom 20% as children to top 20% as adults



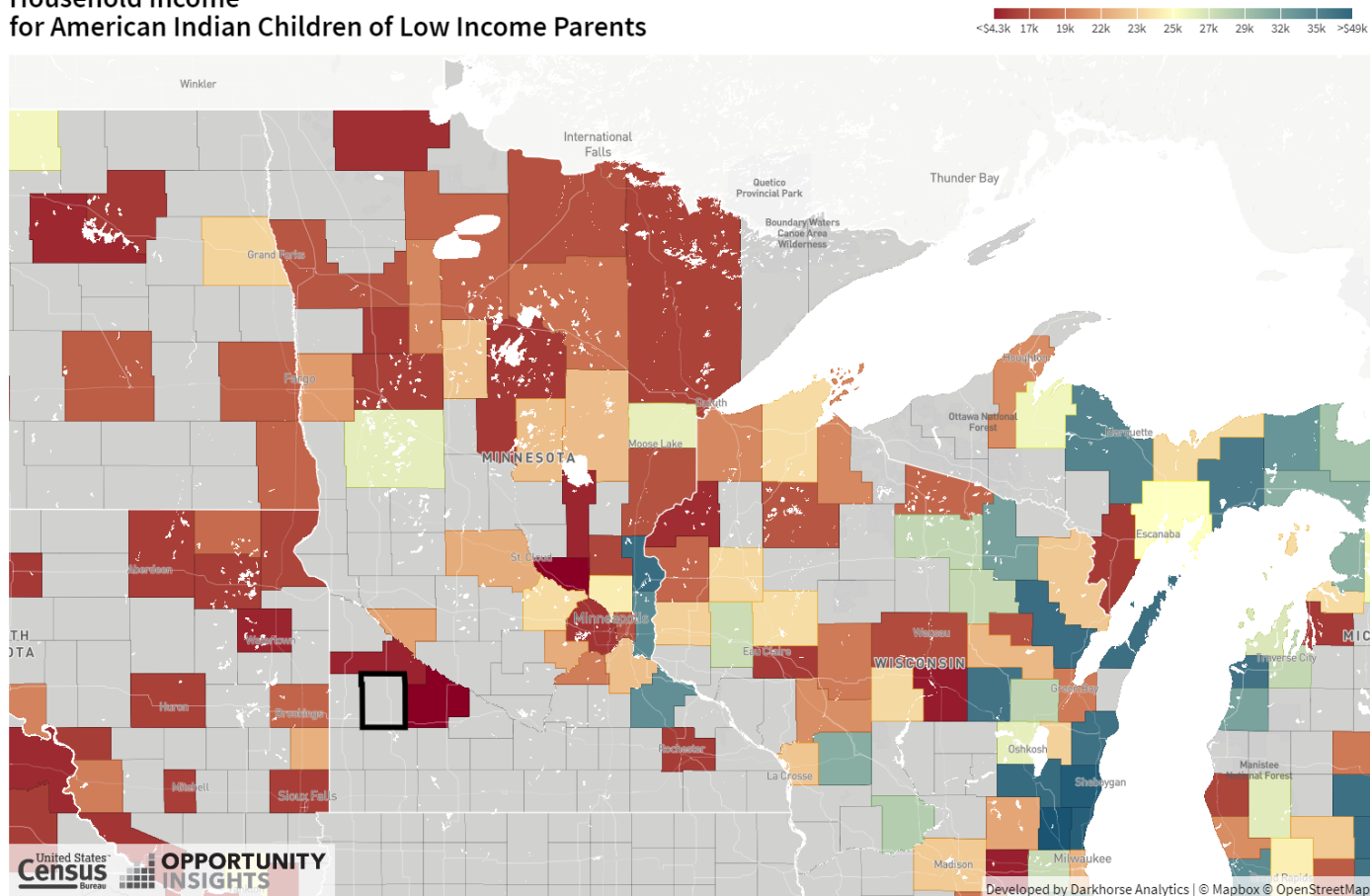
# Upward Mobility for Children of **All Races** in Southwest Minnesota

Household Income  
for Children of Low Income Parents



# Upward Mobility for American Indian Children in Southwest Minnesota

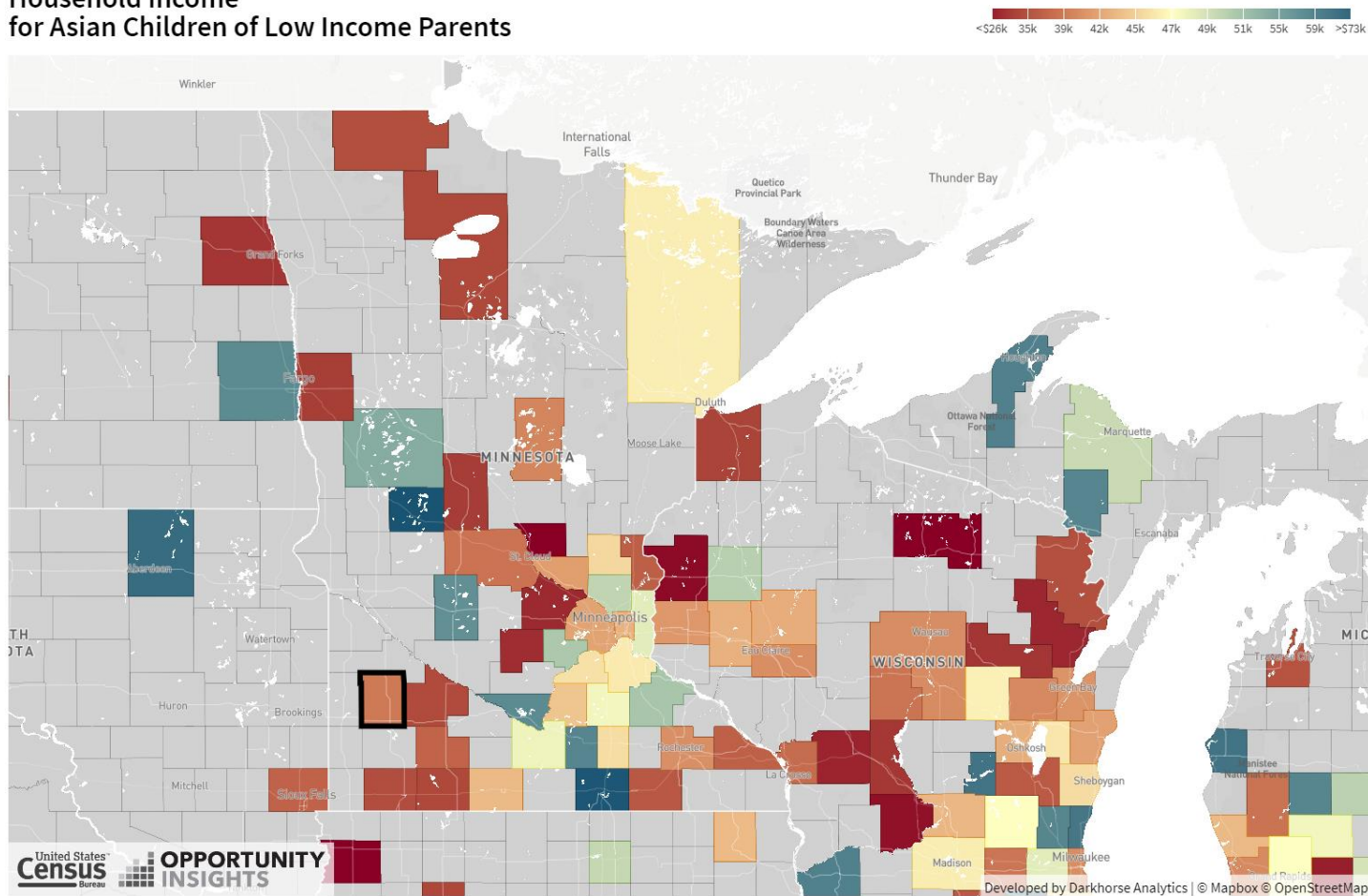
## Household Income for American Indian Children of Low Income Parents





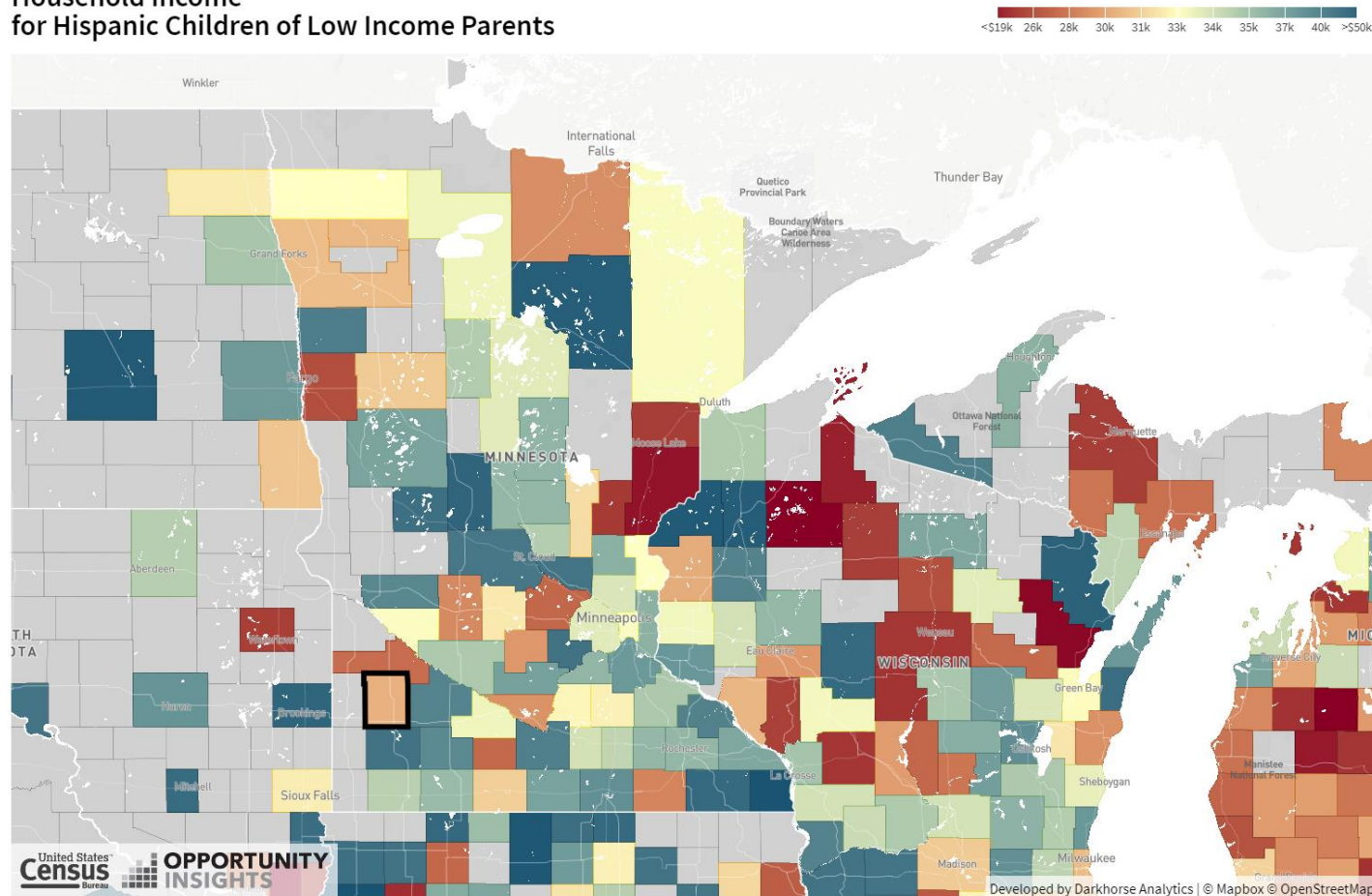
# Upward Mobility for Asian Children in Southwest Minnesota

## Household Income for Asian Children of Low Income Parents



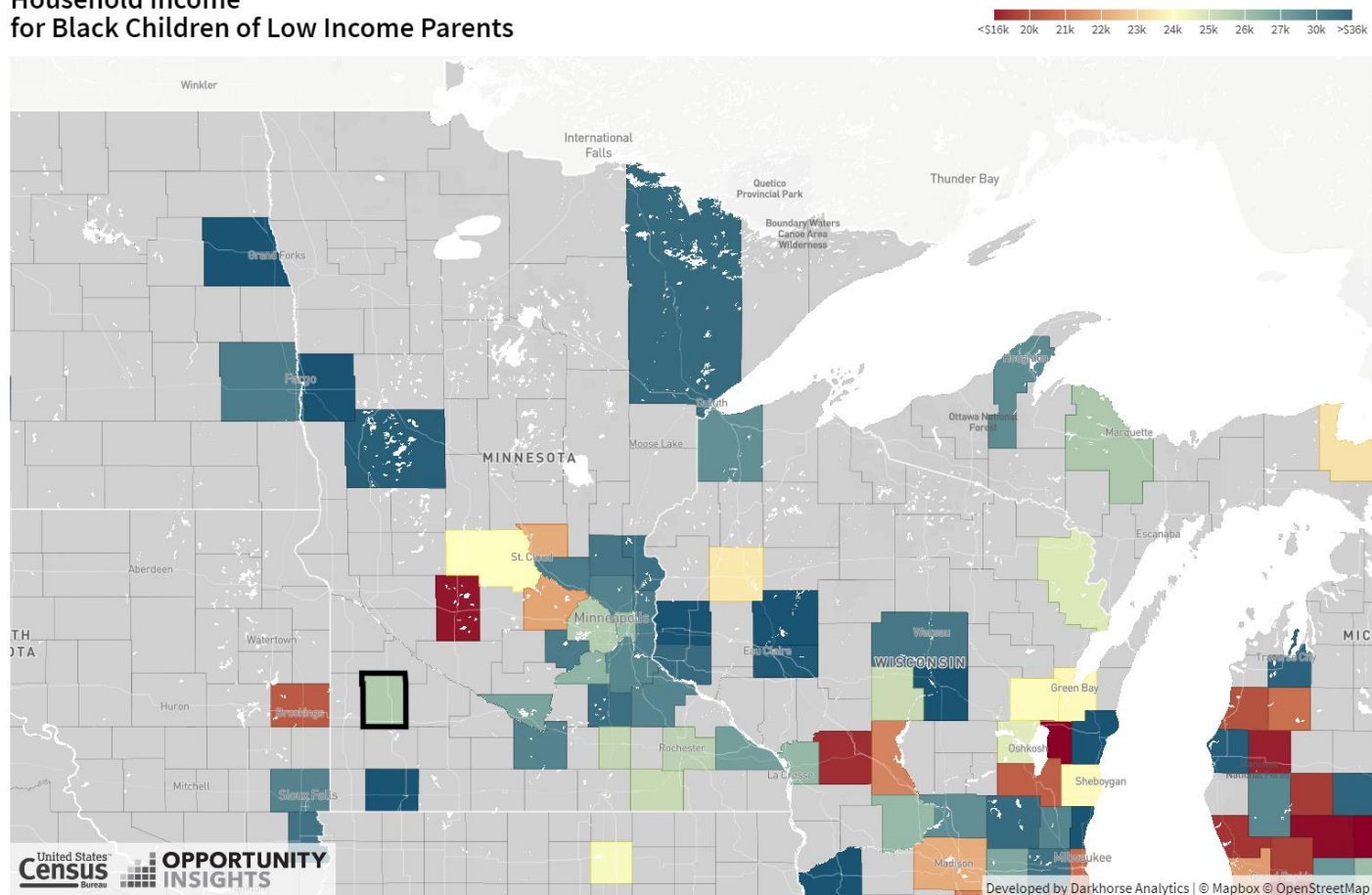
# Upward Mobility for **Hispanic** Children in Southwest Minnesota

## Household Income for Hispanic Children of Low Income Parents



# Upward Mobility for Black Children in Southwest Minnesota

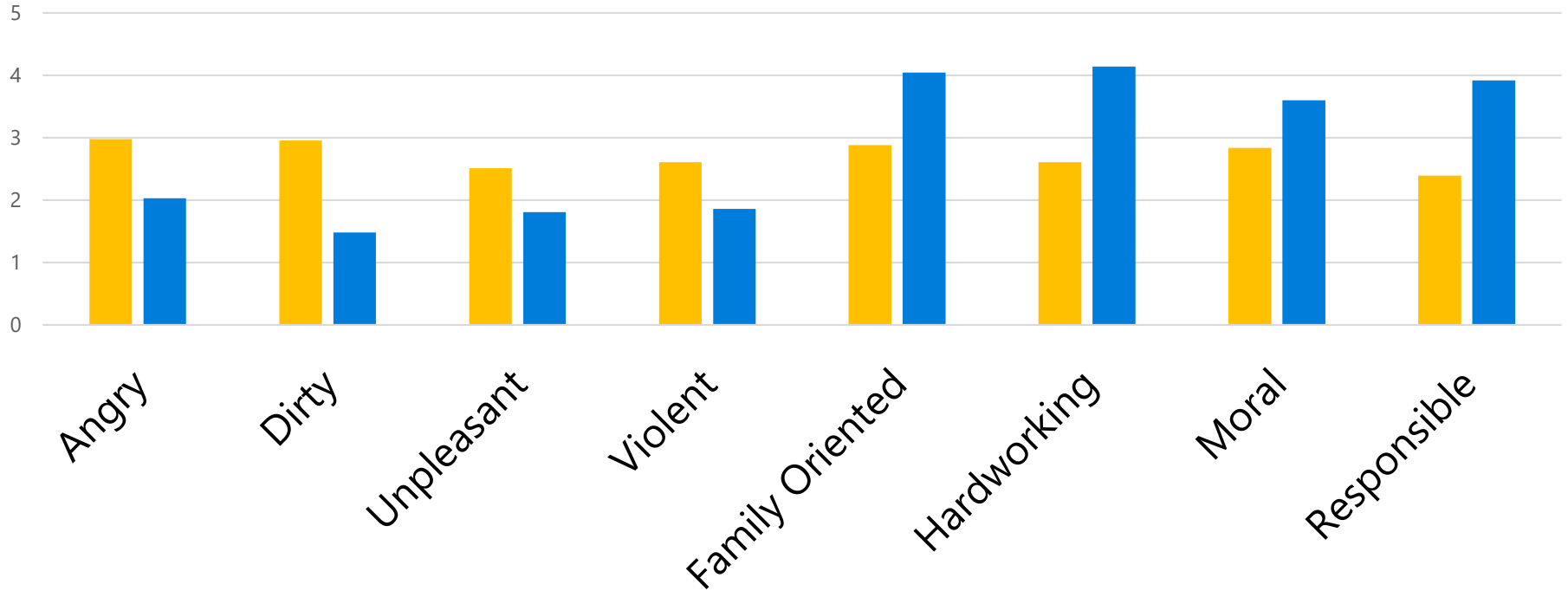
Household Income  
for Black Children of Low Income Parents



**Poverty is isolating &  
stigmatizing**

# Beliefs about Attributes of “the Poor” & Middle Class

■ Poor      ■ Middle Class



**Source:** Data from Catherine Cozzarelli, Anna V. Wilkinson, and Michael J. Tagler, “Attitudes toward the Poor and Attributions from Poverty,” *Journal of Social Issues* 57, no. 2 (2001): 207–27, table 1.

**What would it take to dramatically  
increase mobility from poverty?**



# The Partners

**David T. Ellwood, Chair**  
Harvard Kennedy School

**Elisabeth Babcock**  
Economic Mobility Pathways

**Joshua Bolten**  
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**Arthur C. Brooks**  
American Enterprise Institute

**William J. Bynum**  
Hope Enterprise Corporation

**Raj Chetty**  
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**Rev. Luis Cortés, Jr.**  
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**Kathryn Edin**  
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**Robert Greenstein**  
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

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**Anthony B. Iton**  
The California Endowment

**Lawrence Katz**  
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**Srinija Srinivasan**  
Loove

**Marta Tienda**  
Princeton University

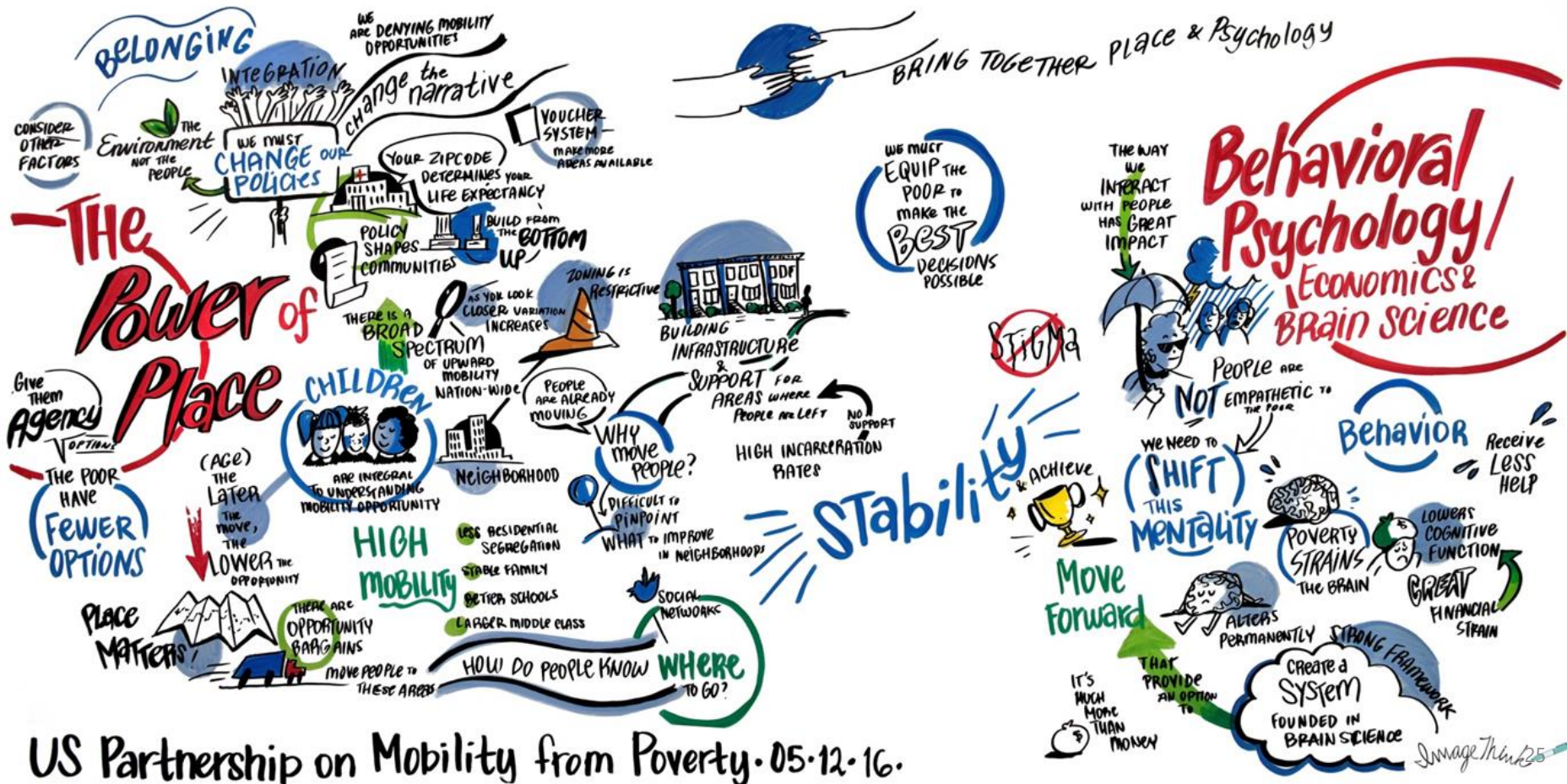
**Jeremy Travis**  
Laura and John Arnold Foundation

**Roxane White**  
The Aspen Institute

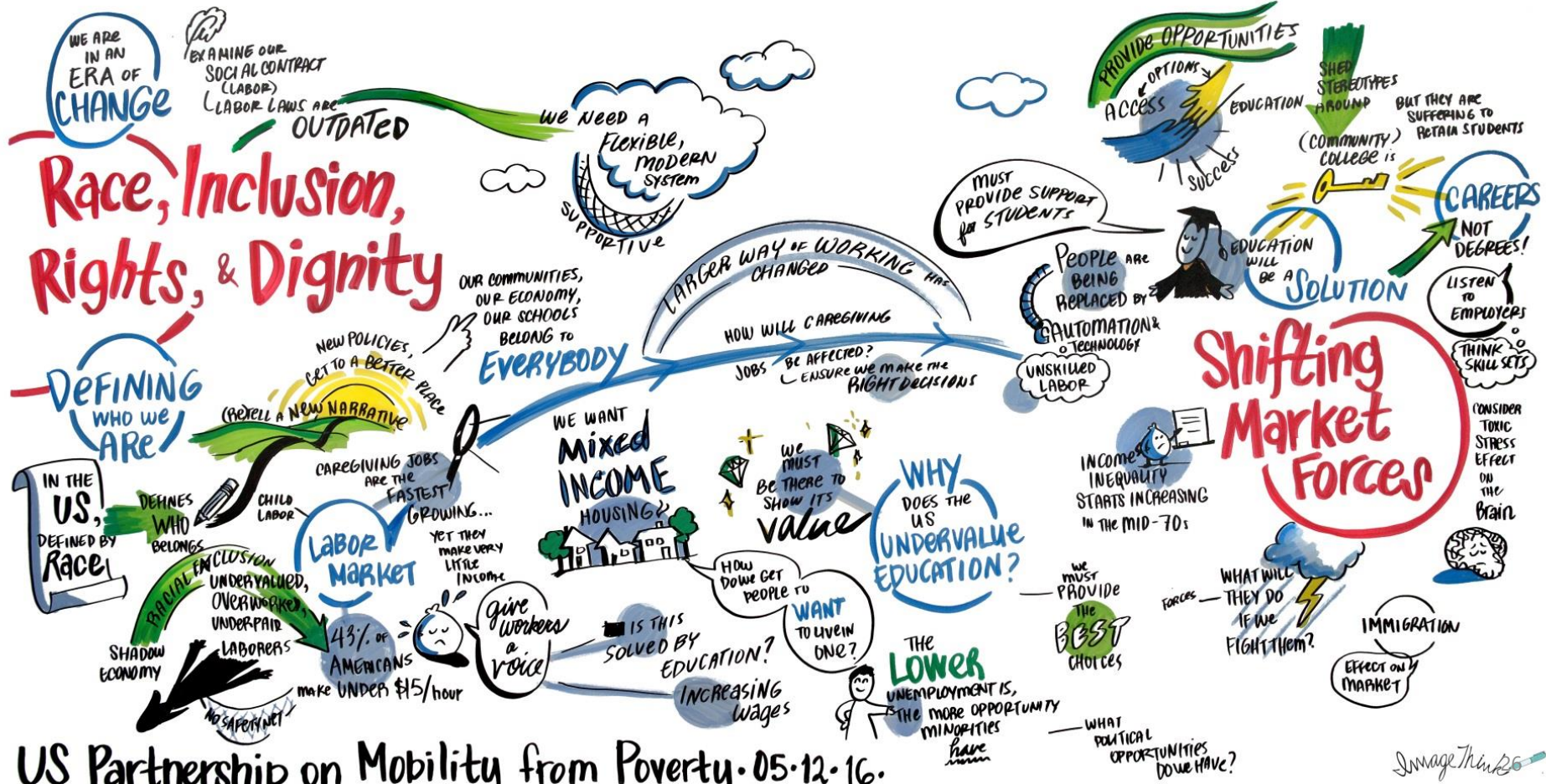
**Hirokazu Yoshikawa**  
New York University

# **Dreaming: Big Themes**





US Partnership on Mobility from Poverty. 05.12.16.



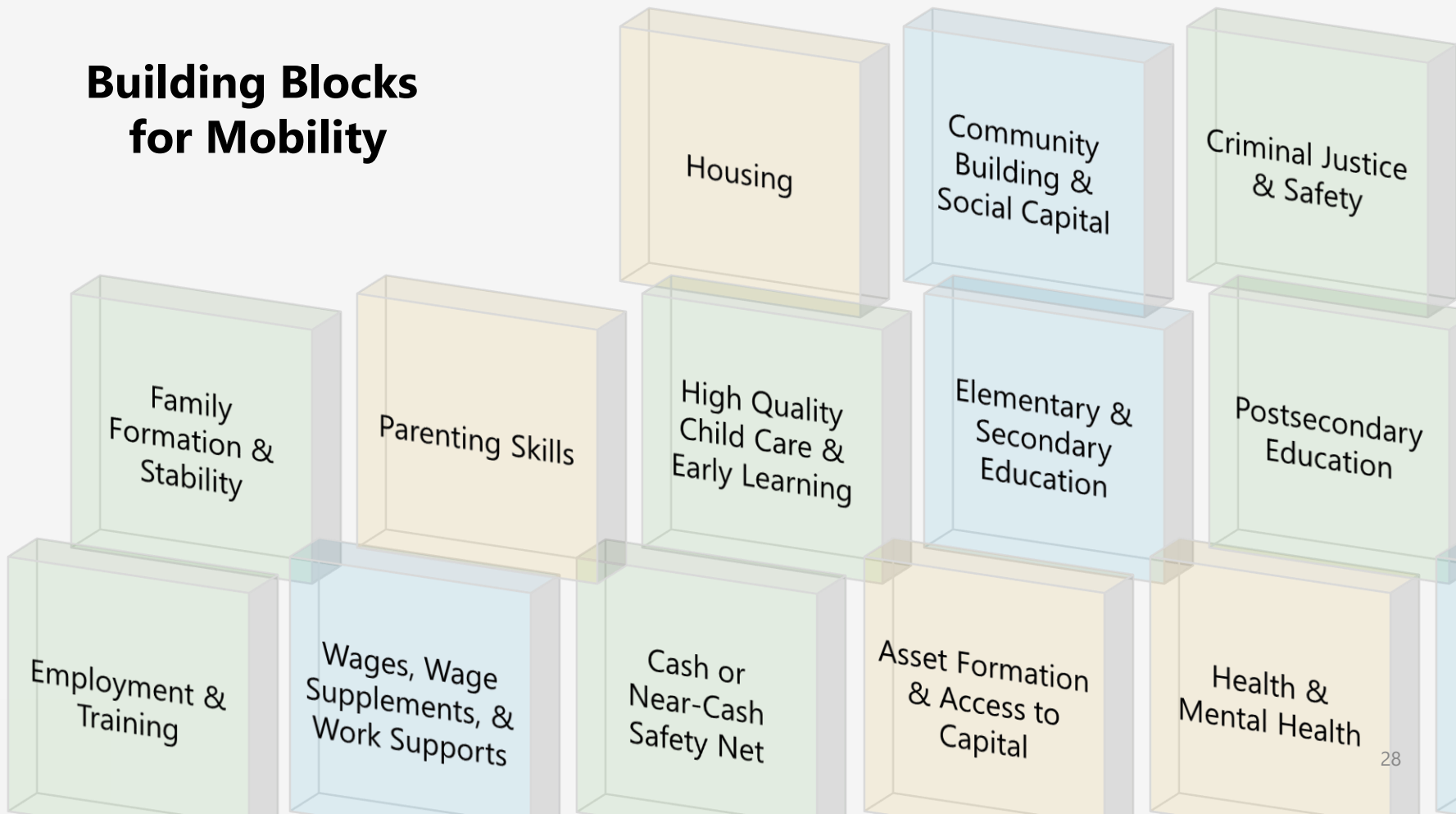
US Partnership on Mobility from Poverty. 05.12.16.

ImageThink25

# **Exploration: Building Blocks for Mobility**



# Building Blocks for Mobility







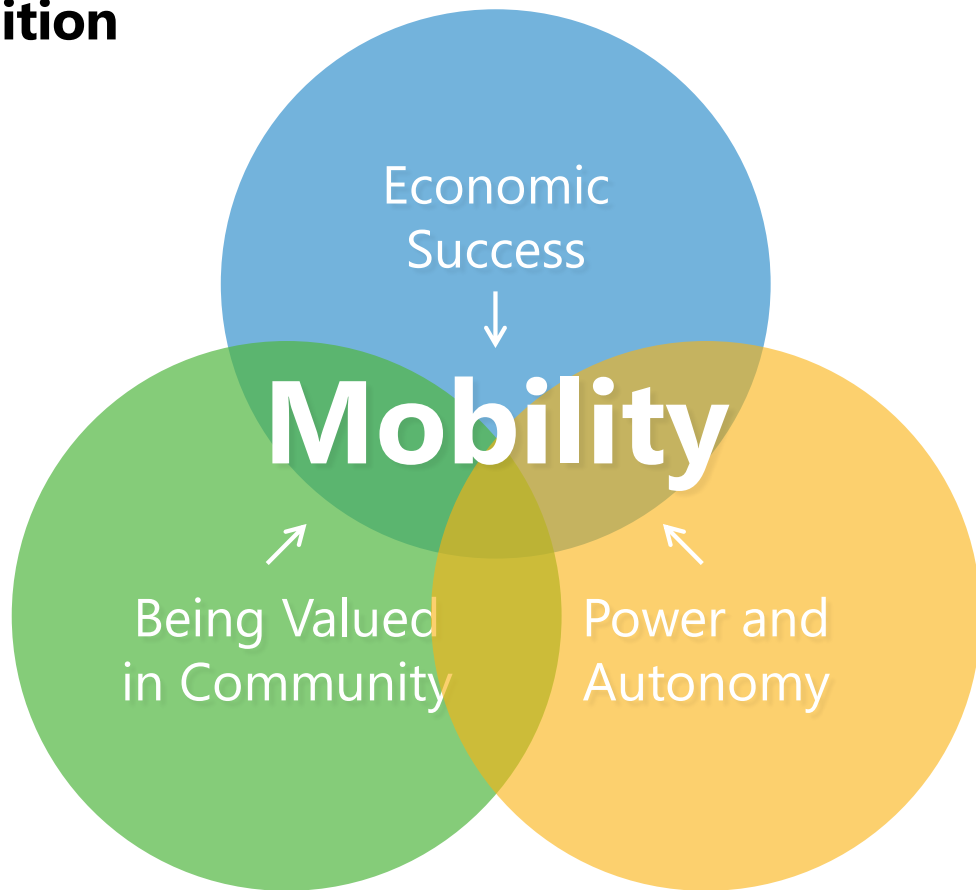


**Site Visits:** Mississippi Delta



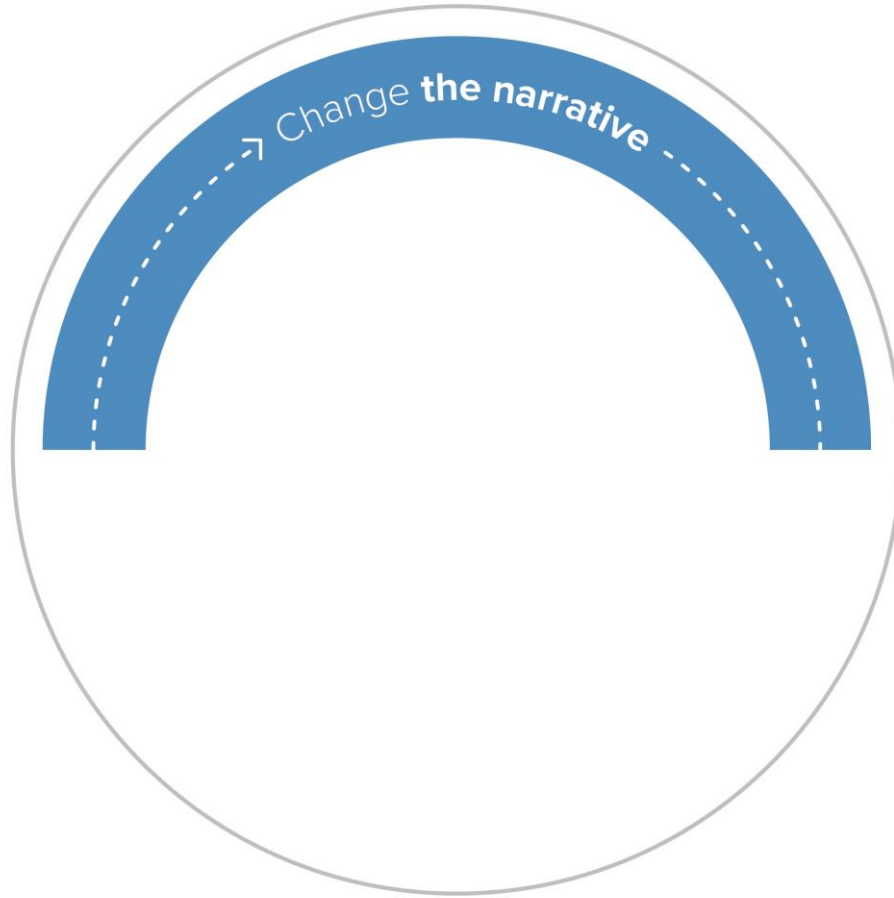
**Site Visits:** Mayfair, East San Jose

# Mobility Definition





# Strategies





*Narratives are like the air we breathe: It's the context for everything.*

— Ai-jen Poo, Partnership member

**Narrative:**  
**The challenge**



People in poverty have no one to blame but themselves.



People in poverty are victims of systems that hold them back.



“Rags-to-riches” stories prove the American Dream is achievable.

## Narrative: Solutions



Humanize  
people in  
poverty

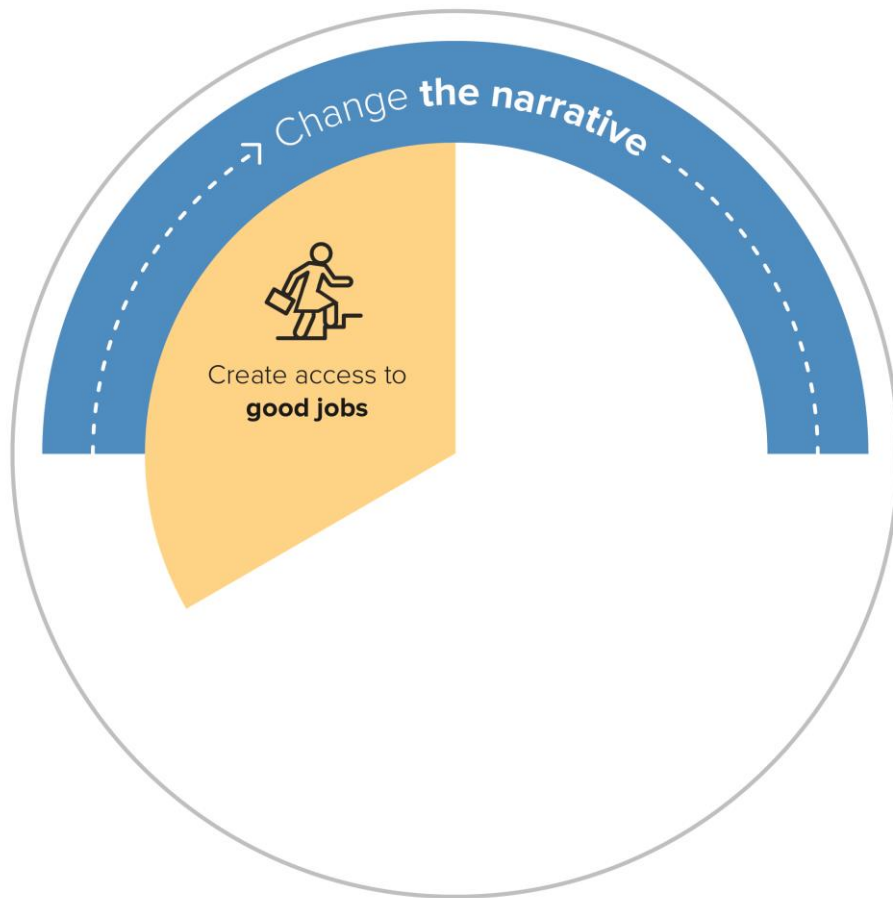


Expose  
structural  
forces



Identify  
allies

# Strategies

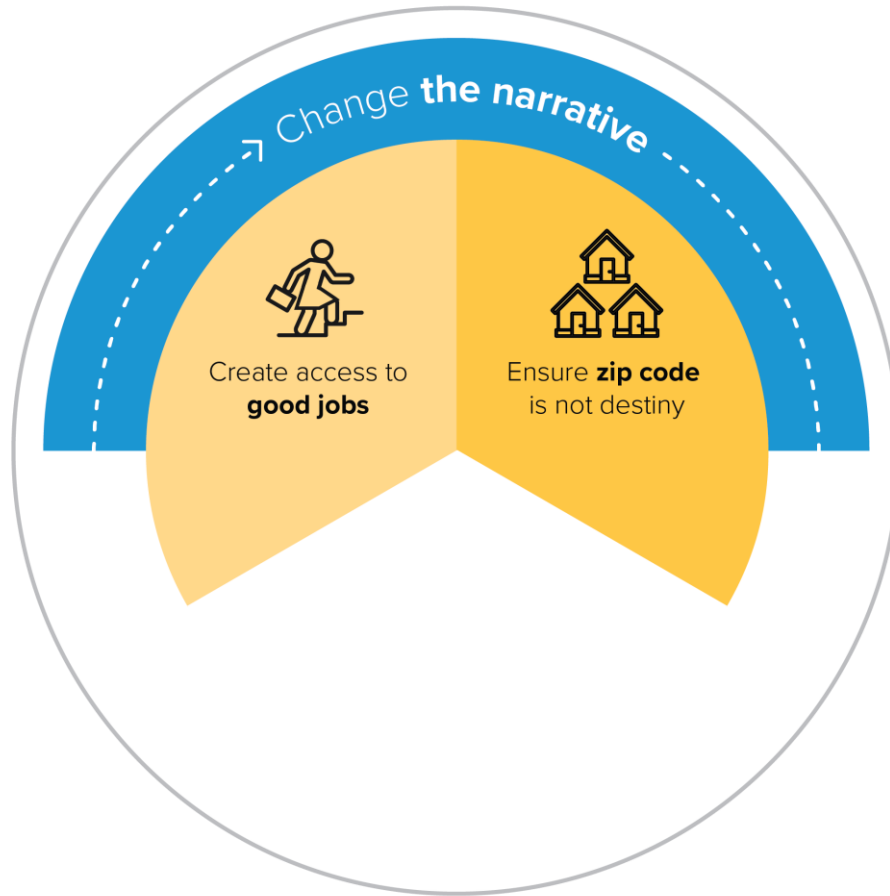




Create Access to Good Jobs

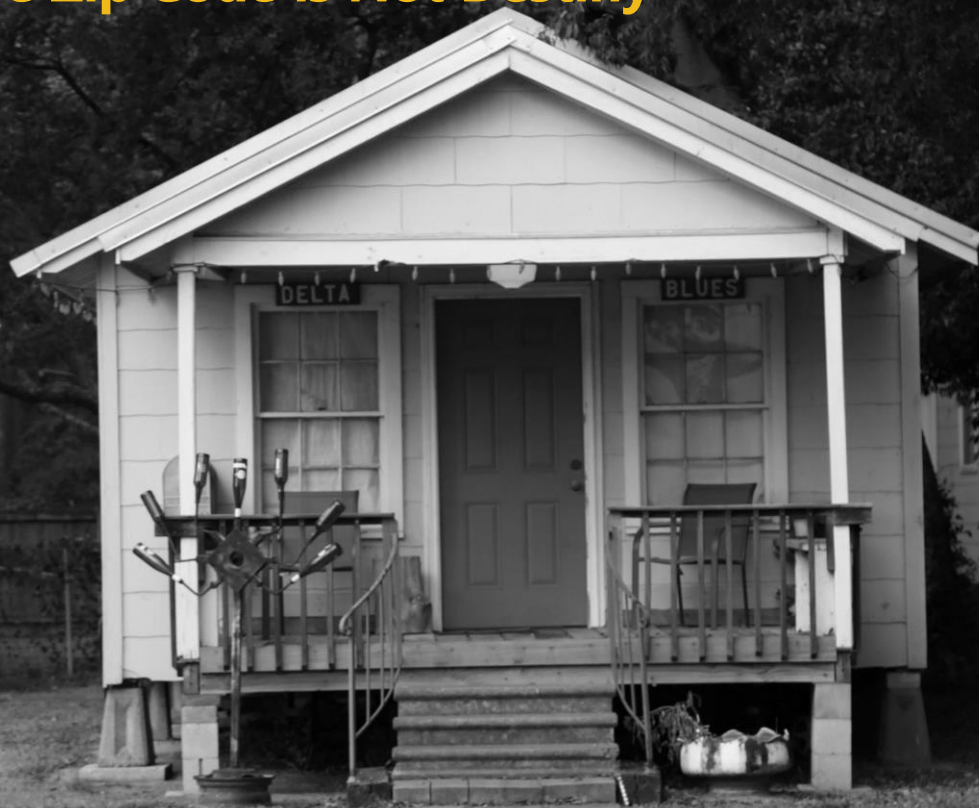
*Robots don't yet do empathy.*  
— Larry Katz, Partnership member

# Strategies





## Ensure Zip Code is Not Destiny

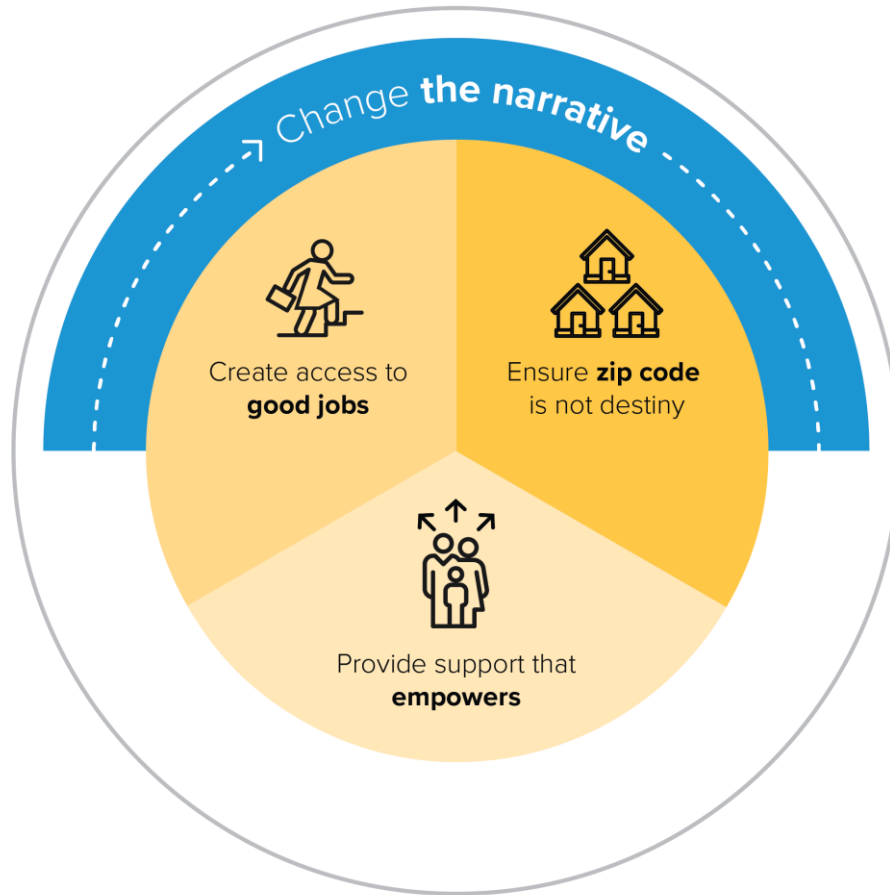


*The community [should] work with people for solutions. It works if you feel like you're both understanding why you're doing it and you have a choice in it. As opposed to something being done to you.*

—African American woman & Detroit resident



# Strategies



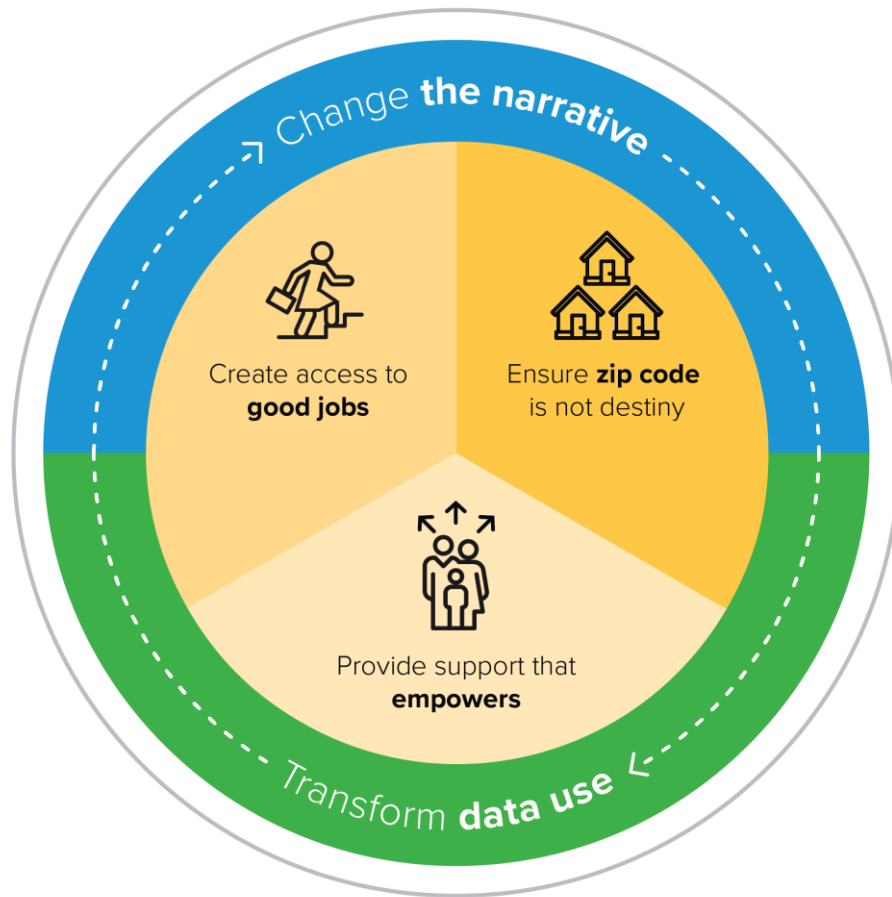
## Provide Support that Empowers



*Lummi people do not consider themselves poor because they are following the values of their elders: family , land & water, balance, love & respect, and voice. There is no word for poverty in their language. It would most closely translate to, “to be without family,” which would never happen.*

—Lummi woman & resident of  
Lummi Nation

# Strategies





## Transform Data Use

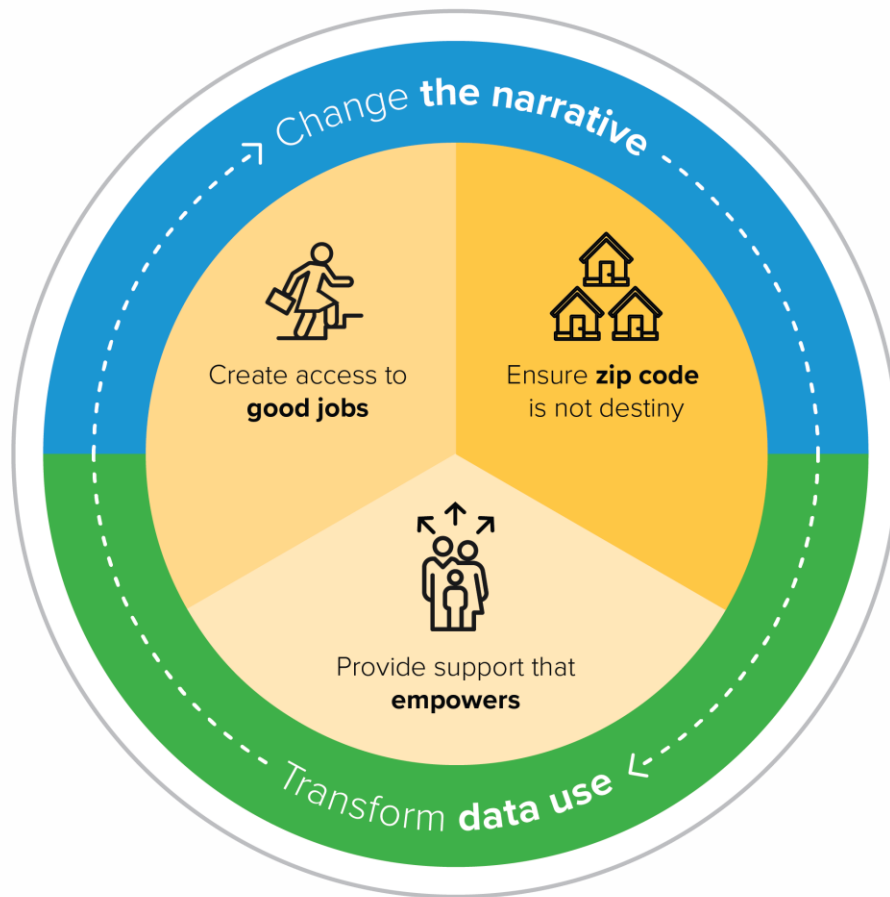
*We review every child death that happened in the city. . . In many cases, each of us has a file on the child or the family at least an inch thick.*

—Dr. Leana Wen, Commissioner of Health, City of Baltimore

**Mutually reinforcing  
strategies**

**+**

**Cross-sector  
collaboration**



**Cue the video!**



## For further information



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